



Yardley Friends Meeting Newsletter

65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

www.YardleyFriendsMeeting.org

Ed Snyder, Clerk

Meeting for Worship: 10:00—11:00

First Day School: 10:00—10:45 (except summer)

Summer 2009

Coming Events

July 26—Meeting for Worship

July 30—Thurs. eve meeting, 7:00

Aug. 2—Meeting for Worship. Road Cleanup after Meeting.

Aug. 6—Thurs. eve meeting, 7:00

Aug. 9—Meeting for Worship

Aug. 12-16—Grange Fair, Wrightstown. Call Holly Olson to volunteer at the Quaker Tent.

Aug. 13—Thurs. eve. meeting, 7:00

Aug. 16—Meeting for Worship.
Please have White Elephant donations to the Meetinghouse on or about this date.

Aug. 20—Thurs. eve. meeting, 7:00

Aug. 21—Quarterly Worship & Ministry Meeting, Lehigh Valley

Aug. 23—Quarterly Meeting for Worship, Bristol, 10:00.
Business meeting, 1:00.

Aug. 27—Thurs. eve meeting, 7:00

Aug. 29—Meeting for Worship.

Sept. 6—Committee Meetings after Meeting for Worship

Sept 12—FLEA MARKET!

Thursday Evening Meetings

The Worship and Ministry Committee is trying an experiment: we will be offering a short Quaker Meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:00. Meetings will run half an hour, followed by another half hour to hour of discussion about Quaker practices and beliefs. The first meeting will be on July 30 and will continue at least through August on a trial basis.

We want to provide an opportunity for an interlude of spiritual quietude into our members' and attenders' busy weeks, and also offer a forum to learn more about Quakerism. If you're looking for an oasis of peace, if you couldn't make it to Sunday worship, if you want to explore what makes us Quakers, please join us on Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 pm and subsequent Thursdays through the summer.

First Day School
Picnic
May 31, 2009



Janet
Zimmerman in
her
spring
hat!



Biz Antrim and Janie
Scurti at the grill

Around the Meetinghouse...

Welcome back to...

Kajsa Nelson, back from several weeks in Hanoi doing a service project at the Peace Village School.

Congratulations to...

Terry Christensen and **Dutton**, who walked across the stage to receive their Doctorate—both re-splendent in cap and gown!

Southampton Meeting Can Use Your Help

Faced with declining membership and attendance over a number of years, Southampton Meeting would like to “borrow” some energy from Friends in the Quarter. Please join us when you can for Meeting for Worship on First Day at 10 am at the meeting house at the corner of Street Rd, and Gravel Hill Rd. in Southampton.

While you’re visiting, browse our facilities at the adjoining House on the Hill. We’re actively looking to host gatherings and events, both Quaker-related and beyond.

Our wooded surroundings are serene and friendly, our facilities warm and simple. They’re suitable for everything from book clubs, study groups, and lectures to jazz bands and poetry slams.

For more information call the meeting at 215-364-0581.

*Do YOU have news for the Newsletter?
Contact Betty Steckman at alphabetv123@earthlink.net, 609-393-0015.
Deadline is the 25th of each month.*

YIKES! THERE'S A HOLE IN THE BUDGET!

Most of the money we need to pay the operating expenses of the Meeting comes from you, the members and attenders of Yardley Friends Meeting. Hard times have befallen many of us, and the Meeting also has felt the pinch. In the budget year just ended, our incoming revenue failed to meet expectations—and needs. We had a bit of reserve money from previous years to cover the shortfall this time, but over the next year you’ll be hearing more about our financial concerns and plans.

If you value the community that is Yardley Friends Meeting, please contribute your fair share to the upkeep of our Meeting house, property and services.

And How Can You Contribute?

To make a financial contribution, just write a check to “Yardley Friends Meeting” and leave it in the Treasurer’s mail bin on the shelf above the coat rack, just inside the door. If it’s easier to mail the check, it can be mailed to Yardley Friends Meeting, 65 North Main St., Yardley, PA 19067. (Pre-addressed envelopes are usually available at the end of the shelf.) Remember, your contributions are tax-deductible!

ROAD CLEANUP SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 2

Yardley Meeting has a commitment to clean up the stretch of Main Street between Route 95 and the railroad station four times a year. Our next scheduled cleanup day is Sunday, August 2, after Meeting for Worship.

If you can, please consider joining the YFM “Clean Team” and help keep Yardley’s Main Street litter-free.

A FAIR TO REMEMBER

The Middletown Grange Fair in Wrightstown will be held August 12 through 16. Every year Bucks Quarter has a tent at the fair and Friends generously serve as greeters at the tent. Holly Olson sets the volunteer schedule. If you are able to help at the tent for a two hour shift of your choice please call Holly at 215-860-9747.

QUAKER MEETING FOR WORSHIP: What's Going on, Anyway?

Newcomers to the unprogrammed Friends Meeting often wonder how to act during the time of worship, as there are no obvious cues as to appropriate behavior. But, as in most situations, there are unwritten conventions that are helpful to know.

Timeliness. Of course, it's better to be on time than late; but it's better to be late than not come at all. As Esther Greenleaf Murer says in *Reflections on Quaker Worship*, "Better 25 minutes late than 25 years—or never." On the other hand, it takes time to center down into the silence. Coming on time allows one to spend that first 20 minutes or so putting aside the distractions of the morning and tuning in to your Inner Voice. By coming late you bring your distractions with you, and make ripples for others already gathered in silence.

If you come in late and someone has risen to give vocal ministry, wait until that person has finished speaking before you enter.

Entering into the silence. When you enter the Meeting room, it is expected that you will enter quietly and settle into silence. Others are probably already seated and have begun that process of settling in. You don't want to introduce distractions, so leave your conversations out in the entry hall.

Sitting quietly. Sitting in silence for an hour can be an uncomfortable experience for the newcomer. Benches can be hard, the room too hot or cold. Your hands want to do something. It's a strong temptation to fidget. While Quakers don't sit like rocks, we do try to minimize our fussing during worship. Let your hands rest casually in your lap, or fold them together, and let your feet rest quietly flat on the floor or against the rail of the bench in front of you.

You might try silent prayer, or meditation. You might find comfort and peace in looking out the windows at the trees and the waterfall. Perhaps a problem in your life calls out for some quiet consideration. Annoyed about something? Put aside your crankiness and, if you can, try to listen for that inner voice of wisdom that comes from the Spirit within.

Listening to vocal ministry. It's likely that during the course of the Meeting for Worship, someone, or several people, may feel called to speak. Their messages may not seem particularly relevant to your issues, but listen with respect anyway. The mystery of Spirit-led ministry is that so often it does speak to someone in need. If that person isn't you, sit quietly even though the message may be over-long, tedious or even inappropriate. It isn't your place to sigh loudly, fidget or look at your watch. Patience is worth cultivating!

Giving vocal ministry. Obviously, sometimes people feel called to rise and speak. How do they know when it's appropriate? What if you feel an urge to say something yourself—what's the etiquette?

First, don't come with a prepared speech. Vocal ministry in the unprogrammed tradition is usually spontaneous and (we hope) inspired by God. Quakers take seriously the breaking of the living silence of Meeting and try not to do so unless pushed by a deep inner need.

What does that feel like? You may try to remain seated but find yourself fidgeting restlessly, unable to reclaim any inner peace until you share your message. Your hands may be clammy, your heart thumping. When you feel moved in this way, it can be helpful to sit with the feeling for a while and see whether it passes. If it subsides, then perhaps the message was meant for you alone; or perhaps it's not yet time to share this particular message. Give it more time to mature or "season" before sharing.

Messages that rebut or clarify previous ministry, or that are primarily political in content, are usually best shared after Meeting, either privately or as an "afterthought" before introductions.

If, after due consideration, you still feel led to share your message, stand up, face the rest of the Meeting and speak out. Acoustics aren't all that good: people can't hear you if you mumble or speak to the fireplace from the front row. Try to keep your message relatively brief and to the point. When you've said what has been given you to say, sit down.

One other suggestion: allow space between messages. If someone has just spoken, and you have the urge to speak, let a few minutes pass before you rise. When many people speak within a short time, we have a "popcorn" Meeting (people popping up around the room). This is not the most meaningful kind of ministry because there's no time to consider the words just spoken before another message comes along.

Rise of Meeting. How do you know when Meeting is over? It's been a long time; did everyone fall asleep? Don't worry! When the time is right, someone (usually a long-time Quaker) will turn to his or her neighbor, shake hands and say "Good morning." That's the cue for the rest of us to do likewise.

At Yardley, after greeting one another, we sit down again for afterthoughts, a round of introductions and any announcements. We may sing a song or two if our pianist is on hand. Afterward, there may be refreshments in the social room and a time to meet and greet people. Please join us!

—Betty Steckman

AS THE WORLD TURNS
(author unknown)

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following.

There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere
(both north and south)

8 would be Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be nonwhite

30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual

11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the US.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death

1 would be near birth

1 would have college education

1 would own a computer

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